

# THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Mark 4:1-20

(ESV)

[1] Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. [2] And he was teaching them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: [3] “Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. [4] And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. [5] Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. [6] And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. [7] Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. [8] And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.” [9] And he said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

[10] And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. [11] And he said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, [12] so that

“they may indeed see but not perceive,  
and may indeed hear but not understand,  
lest they should turn and be forgiven.”

[13] And he said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? [14] The sower sows the word. [15] And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. [16] And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. [17] And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. [18] And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, [19] but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. [20] But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.”

## INTRODUCTION

A parable is a story, an illustration, a metaphor that draws a comparison between a common reality that is relatable to the listener and deeper spiritual insight from the teacher.

The parable of the sower is about the building of the Kingdom of God.

**Mark 1:15**—“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

## THE SEED

The seed of the Kingdom of God is the Word of God proclaimed.

## Isaiah 55:10–11

[10] *“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there but water the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
[11] so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.*

## THE SOWER

The sower is anyone who proclaims the word of God.

- **John 1:1**—*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*
- **Colossians 3:16**—*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

--At the heart of the message we proclaim, there is Christ.

--Our mission is evangelism, and evangelism is the proclamation of Christ.

## THE SECRET

Insiders have been given the secret of the Kingdom of God, but the outsiders do not understand the secret.

- **Matthew 7:13–14**—*I “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. [14] For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.*
- **1 Corinthians 1:18**—*For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*
- **John 8:43–44**—*Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. [44] You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires.*

--When it comes to God’s salvation there is only one answer—grace.

--The Parable of the Sower reveals the goal of the Kingdom of God.

--The secret of the Kingdom of God is that through the preaching of the gospel, the lives of those who respond with faith and repentance will be transformed, and they will bear much fruit worthy of eternity.

## THE SOILS

The Kingdom of God does not follow the wisdom of man.

### The Four Soils

- The soil along the path = a heart that is hardened to the gospel
- The soil on rocky ground = a heart that is fearful of persecution for the faith
- The soil among the thorns = heart that is enamored with the world
- The good soil = those who believe the gospel